

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-8, 10-15 and 21-25 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is in independent form. Claims 21-25 are newly-added.

I. **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

After entry of the amendments filed on January 5, 2010, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter and consider the above claim amendments. In particular, claims 21-25 are newly-added. The features of claims 21-25 are supported, at least, by paragraph [0029] of the Specification.

Thus, Applicants submit that the claim amendments do not introduce new matter.

II. **STATEMENT REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW**

In response to the Interview Summary dated January 14, 2010, the following statement regarding the substance of the interview is respectfully submitted in response to the telephonic interview conducted on January 6, 2010 between Examiner Narayan Bhat and Applicants' representatives, Donald J. Daley (Reg. No. 34,313) and Crystal Wilson (Reg. No. 61,730).

During the interview, Applicants' representatives discussed the electrochemical sensitivity characteristics observed when a DNA chip has the hydrogel thickness and the electrode arrangement taught by the example embodiments. Applicants' representatives also discussed i) how

Albers fails to teach a cross-linking agent and the claimed hydrogel thickness, and ii) the absence of electrodes in Johnson. Applicants' representatives also discussed how the cross-linking agent taught by Johnson assists the reactive site with attachment of biomolecules, rather than being used to form an internally cross-linked hydrogel.

The Examiner recommended that Applicants submit objective evidence that establishes the significance of the two-pole system and the four-pole system in combination with the claimed hydrogel thickness, or identify a structural difference between the claimed invention and the cited art.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1, 5-8, 10-15 and 21-25 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By _____

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